

THOMAS D. LAYZELL

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EMPLOYMENT

COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Institutions of Higher Learning

1995-PRESENT

Jackson, Mississippi

I was appointed Commissioner of Higher Education for the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) in 1995. The IHL system is governed by a constitutionally created Board of Trustees. The Board is responsible for the governance of Alcorn State University, Delta State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, Mississippi University for Women, Mississippi Valley State University, The University of Mississippi, and The University of Southern Mississippi. As Commissioner, I am the System Executive Officer and responsible for development, implementation, and monitoring of Board policies, and general oversight and coordination of system initiatives and activities in academic program development and review; planning, budgeting and financial management; public affairs and government relations; state financial aid programs; and the University Research Center. I serve as a member of the following public and private boards, committees, and organizations: Inter-Agency Council on Early Childhood Education, State Workforce Development Council, State Workforce Investment Board, Health Insurance Management Board, Mississippi Higher Education Assistance Commission, Jobs for Mississippi Graduates, College Savings Plan for Mississippi, and the Madison County Library Foundation. I am a member of the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), the National Association of System Heads (NASH), the Council of Presidents of the Association of Governing Boards (AGB), Mississippi Technology Alliance Board, and serve as a commissioner of the Education Commission of the States.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CHANCELLOR

Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities

1984-1995

Springfield, Illinois

I was appointed Executive Director of the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities in June of 1984. The Board of Governors was responsible for the governance of Chicago State University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University, Northeastern Illinois University, and Western Illinois University. As Executive Director, I was charged with insuring the effective articulation and coordination of institutional and systemwide concerns and served as advisor to the Board and Presidents on educational and administrative matters.

On October 24, 1985, following a study, the Board of Governors adopted a Chancellor/Presidents form of organization and I was appointed to the position of Chancellor. As Chancellor, I was the chief executive officer of the system, responsible for the management and direction of system operations, and for serving as the principal spokesperson and representative for the system with the Governor, General Assembly and other external agencies and constituencies. The Presidents reported to me and through me to the Board. I was responsible for managing and directing Presidential searches and for evaluating Presidents.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities

1976-1984

Springfield, Illinois

I was initially employed in 1976 as Deputy Executive Director for Administration and Labor

Relations. In 1978, I was appointed Deputy Executive Director for Administration and Fiscal Affairs and Treasurer of the Board of Governors. My primary areas of responsibility were administration, planning, budgeting and financial management; policy development; and employee relations. In this latter area, I served as chief negotiator, contract administrator, and grievance officer for the systemwide faculty collective bargaining agreement, and provided management oversight and coordination of negotiations, contract administration, and grievances in relation to contracts with over twenty civil service unions. I was also responsible for coordination of proceedings before the Educational Labor Relations Board.

In addition, I served as Chairman of two systemwide task forces of Vice Presidents. I served as Chairman of a task force of the five Administrative Vice Presidents which met monthly to consider matters of systemwide concern in a variety of fiscal and administrative matters. I also served as Chairman of a task force of six university vice presidents which met monthly to provide coordination and policy direction for the Board's plan to implement common computer software on a systemwide basis.

**ASSISTANT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ADMINISTRATION/ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
FOR ADMINISTRATION/VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ADMINISTRATION**

Governors State University

1969-1976

University Park, Illinois

In 1969, I was employed as one of the original staff members at Governors State University, a public, upper division, and graduate level institution located in University Park, Illinois. Governors State University began instruction in 1971 and I participated in all phases of its planning and development. I held the position of Assistant to the Vice President for Administration, Assistant Vice President for Administration, Acting Vice President for Administration (twice) and, on July 1, 1974, I was appointed Vice President for Administration. The Vice President for Administration was the chief financial officer of the institution, responsible to the President and Board of Governors for all aspects of the institution's financial management. I coordinated and supervised physical and fiscal program planning and review; budget preparation, defense and review; personnel administration; the physical and fiscal aspects of institutional research; employee relations; security; contract preparation and negotiation; policy analysis; governmental relations; data system development; and liaison with other institutional programs and activities.

I held the rank of University Professor in the College of Business and Public Service and developed and taught courses in Administrative Law, The Nature and Function of Law, and Commercial Transactions. I served as a member of the University Assembly's Fiscal Resources Committee; several GSU ad hoc Committees; the Illinois Board of Higher Education's Salary, Capital Priorities, Campus Planning, Capital and Operating Budget, Physical Plant, and Parking Committees; and the Board of Governors Business Reference Manual Committee; Tax Shelter Annuity Committee, and Administrative Task Force comprised of the Administrative and Business Vice Presidents of the five institutions under the Board.

Some of my other activities at GSU were: founding member and first President (1973-75) of the GSU Credit Union; Assistant Treasurer of the GSU Foundation (1969-76); Vice Chairman of the Willco Council of Governments (1970-71); Board member of the Lakewood Homeowner's Association (1972-73); and Treasurer and Troop Committee member of Boy Scout Troop 314 (1974-76).

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/
BUDGET ASSOCIATE**
Illinois Board of Higher Education

1966-1969
Springfield, Illinois

From 1966 to 1969 I was employed by the Illinois Board of Higher Education in Springfield, Illinois. The Board is responsible for coordination of public and private higher education with major responsibilities in the areas of statewide master planning, approval of new programs, and review and recommendation of capital and operating budgets for public universities and community colleges.

I held two positions on the Board staff: Administrative Assistant and Budget Associate. At the time I was on the staff, it was relatively small (13 professionals at its peak) and comprised of a program staff and a financial staff each with responsibilities for both federal and state programs.

I was initially employed to administer the federal equipment grant program (Title VI-A, Higher Education Act of 1965) and to assist in the administration of the federal construction grant program (Title I, Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963) and other Board activities. I was later promoted to the position of Budget Associate with responsibilities for: budget analysis and review of capital and operating budget requests from all public institutions in the state, and for legislative liaison related to the budgets. I participated in several special projects and studies including Phase II of the Board's Master Plan for public higher education. I served as the Illinois staff member and chairman of a three-state staff for the Midwestern Council of State Government's 1968 Conference on Interstate Cooperation in Higher Education in the Midwest. I also served as a BHE staff representative to all of the interinstitutional committees of the Board related to budgets, finance, and physical facilities.

ASSOCIATE
Galowich & Galowich

1965-1966
Joliet, Illinois

From 1965 to 1966 I was employed by Galowich and Galowich, Attorneys at Law, Joliet, Illinois. The firm was a general practice firm and my duties involved legal research, preparation of various legal documents and papers, preparation of income tax returns, counseling clients, and other legal matters.

EDUCATION

B.A. – HISTORY
Millikin University

1960
Decatur, Illinois

J.D. – LAW
University of Illinois

1965
Urbana, Illinois

M.A. – Public Administration
University of Illinois

1972
Urbana, Illinois

PERSONAL

Birth Date May 24, 1938, Taylorville, Illinois

Marital Status Married, four children